

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 11-17, 19-26, 28-35 and 37 are rejected, Claims 6-10, 18 and 27 are objected to and Claim 36 is allowed.

By the present amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 18, 23, 26, 27 and 37 have been amended, Claims 3 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice and Claims 38-42 have been added to further define the invention. The Examiner's reconsideration of the objections and rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-10, 18 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (i.e., Claim 1) and including any intervening claim.

Claims 10, 18 and 27 have been amended as proposed by the Examiner to place the application in condition for allowance.

As amended Claims 10, 18 and 27 are deemed to be in condition for allowance, formal notice thereof by the Examiner being respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, the subject matter of canceled Claim 6 has been incorporated in Claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge Examiner's indication that Claim 36 is allowed.

Claims 1-5, 11-17, 19-26, 28-35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,322,861).

With respect to Claim 1, although it is believed that the Examiner's assertions in the Office Action are incorrect, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled Claim 6 and intervening Claim 3 to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has also been amended by expanding the number average molecular weight from --of from about 100 to about 12,000-- to "of from about 60 to about 12,000", and support for the amendment can be found in the specification, for example, on page 9, lines 11-12.

Further, the dependencies of Claims 4, 7, 8 and 37 have been amended to depend directly from Claim 1.

As amended, Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, i.e., Claims 2, 4-9, 11-17, 19-26 and 28-35, are deemed to be in condition for allowance, formal notice thereof by the Examiner being respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 3, Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 38-42 have been added to further define the invention and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as given for their respective base Claims 1, 10, 18 and 27.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Thomas W. McNally

Reg. No. 48,609

Attorney for Applicants

DILWORTH AND BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard
Uniondale, New York 11553
Telephone: (516) 228-8484
Facsimile: (516) 228-8516